

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a divisional (and claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC 120) of U.S. application serial no. 09/684,579, filed October 6, 2000, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,670,450, which claims priority to and is a continuation-in-part of PCT/JP99/01913, filed April 9, 1999, which claims priority from Japanese Application 10/115975, filed April 10, 1998. The disclosures of the prior applications are considered part of (and are incorporated by reference in) the disclosure of this application.

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

GENE INVOLVED IN MYOCYTE DIFFERENTIATION